

By OSCAR CISNEROS

Herald Staff Writer

#Thousands of people visited **Circuit City** Friday during its grand opening day, store manager Jacinto Guillaume said.

"Today, we got around 7,000 people," he said Friday,"and tomorrow we expect to have about 12,000."

Guillaume, who has worked at two previous grand openings, said he based his figures on experience and previous grand opening head counts.

The 30,000 square foot **Circuit City** offers many wares for sale -- microwave ovens, refrigerators, TVs, VCRs, computers, software, and music titles on CD and cassette.

The store will add 45 new jobs to the Brownsville area year round and an additional 10 temporary jobs during the Christmas season, Guillaume said.

Brownsville greeted **Circuit City** with open arms: Its residents were constantly asking when the store was going to open, Guillaume said.

Strangers approached him to welcome him to the city, he said.

Sales Manager Gene Rodriguez added that the city government did its part, too.

"They were very helpful," he said. "They even put a crossover in the street."

Rodriguez was referring to a crossover in the median on Mexico Boulevard, which was built to allow direct access to the store.

Guillaume said he likes the store's close proximity to Mexico and regards it as an asset.

"We expect a lot of people from Matamoros are going to be shopping here," he said.

He said that the area's locale makes for a promising future.